

SIRIS in the SHADES: 8

A

DIALOGUE

CONCERNING

TAR WATER;

BETWEEN

Mr. BENJAMIN SMITH, *lately deceased*,

Dr. HANCOCK, and Dr. GARTH,

AT THEIR

MEETING upon the BANKS

OF THE

RIVER STYX.



Hinc Via Tar-tar-eas quæ fert Acherontis ad Undas.

L O N D O N :

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S I R I S

I N T H E

S H A D E S, &c.

Smith. **T**O be cut off thus untimely !
To be torn from my Wealth,
and all the Pleasures which
that might have afforded me;
and, instead thereof, to be condemned for
ever to these gloomy Regions : 'Tis a tor-
menting Thought ! Had I but lived to finish
the last Purchase——

Hancock. You're welcome to the lower
World, Sir : But pray, What makes you so
pensive, and so melancholy ?

Smith. Oh that confounded Dr. —— !

Hancock. Alas, Sir ! We hear these Kind
of Complaints daily from such, as arrive here
from the upper World ; and, I confess, there
is often but too much Reason for them. I
heartily pity your hard Fate, and am as rea-
dy as any Body to join with you in Railing at
the Faculty.—But pray, Sir, be so good as
to inform me, what Distemper sent you hi-
ther.

Smith. If it will be any Satisfaction to you to know, I must tell you, Sir, that I died of a Burning Fever: A *Causus*, I think, was the Name which my Physician gave it.

Hancock. What! I suppose, you were suffocated by the hot Regimen; and died, as Thousands more have done, of Blisters, Cordials, and Sudorificks.

Smith. No, Sir, I cannot blame my Physician for what he did to me; he has the Reputation of a skilful Man, and treated me, I believe, according to the Rules of Art.

Hancock. What have you to complain of then, Sir?

Smith. My Quarrel with my Physician is not so much on Account of what he did, as what he did not do.

Hancock. I do not understand you, Sir, and should be glad if you would explain yourself.

Smith. Have you not heard of a Remedy, which has lately been discovered in the upper World, to cure all Diseases, and prolong a Man's Life to the Age of *Methuselah*!

Hancock. I have heard of many Pretenders to Universal Medicines, since I left the World;

World ; but I am confident that none ever came up to my *Specific* ;— Not even the celebrated Pill and Drop : But, pray, what may this grand *Arcanum* be ?

Smith. It would take up too much Time to enumerate all its Excellencies, but, to sum them up in few Words, it is a Remedy which contains the Quintessence of all Remedies, which the Wit of Man has ever yet discovered ; it is the most sovereign Balsam in all Nature, and in it are comprised the Virtues of Mercury, Soap, Opium, Steel, the Woods, and Gums, and, in short, of the whole Animal, Mineral, and Vegetable Kingdom.

Hancock. ' This Medicine must be a very extraordinary one, indeed, if it answers the Character you give of it.

Smith. After all that I have said, I have been far from doing Justice to this *illuminating, vivifying* Cordial ; but, you will soon be convinced of the Truth of what I tell you ; for if the Use of it should prevail (as I doubt not in so discerning an Age it will) you will not see such Shoals of the Dead arrive here daily, as you used to do—In short, I believe that *Charon* may even lay up his Boat and keep Holy-day, since there will be little or no Employment for him.

Hancock.

Hancock. Pray, Sir, if I may take the Liberty to ask, How came you to quit the World, just at the Time when such a Life-prolonging Medicine was discovered? For, as you seem so well acquainted with its Virtues, I suppose you did not come hither before you had swallowed a sufficient Dose of it.

Smith. Ah, Sir, this is what I was lamenting when I met with you. Had I followed my own Judgment, and taken the Remedy as I ought, I might have been alive at this Time—But I must needs send for a Physician (to satisfy the Importunity of my Friends) and the Doctor, under Pretence, that it would inflame my Blood, and I know not what besides, would not suffer me to drink enough of it; and this was the Reason of my coming hither.

Hancock. Your Case is very hard, I own—Physicians, I see, go on just as they did in my Time, and had rather at any Time let twenty Patients die, than stir a Step out of the beaten Road—But you have said so much of this surprising Remedy, that I long to be acquainted with it: Pray, did the Inventor make it public, or did he conceal it from the World?

Smith. Conceal it? No, Sir. The Author is not one of those Men, who take Advantage

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vantage of People's Credulity, to impose their *Nostrums* on them ; he is of a Rank which sets him above Quackery, and generously communicated his Remedy, “ through a Belief, “ that it would prove a valuable Present to “ the Publick.”

Hancock. I very much commend him for it ; for, should the Public find it not to be worth *any Thing*, they cannot complain that *any Thing* was given for it ; as I have been told they did upon a late Occasion ; when they were forced to pay a very considerable Sum for the Discovery of a Medicine of very inconsiderable Value— But, pray, Sir, do not keep me any longer in Suspense ; for I begin to fancy, that this must be the *Universal Medicine*, which the Alchymists have been so long in Search of, or *Aurum Potabile*, at least.

Smith. You are quite mistaken, I assure you, Sir ; instead of being a Thing valuable for its Scarcity, it is a Remedy which its Cheapness and Plenty has rendered contemptible— In short, Sir, it is nothing more than Spring-Water, impregnated with the Virtues of that sovereign Balsam, T A R.

Hancock. *Tar-Water*, Sir ! Is that your illuminating, vivifying Cordial ? Your Remedy that contains the Quintessence of all other Remedies ? Ah, Sir ! had you taken *my Specific*, you might have been in the Possession

Possession of those Pleasures, which you seem so mightily to regret the Loss of : But, for *Tar-Water*, I will not answer for it, that it would have been of any more Service to you, than your Physician was—— Why, I have read the Book, Sir, and could not have imagined, that any one in his Senses could ever have been brought to swallow so nauseous a Draught.

Smith. I presume, Sir, by your mentioning your *Specific*, that you was a Practitioner in the upper World ; I should not therefore presume to ask what your *Specific* was, were there a Possibility of its being any longer profitable to you ; but, as there is not, I suppose you'll make no Scruple of revealing it.

Hancock. I never made any Secret of my Medicines : If I had, his Lordship's Treatise would probably never have seen the Light ; for, to speak the Truth, *he plainly borrowed the Hint from me* ; and his Lordship's Remedy is only my *Grand Febrifuge* in Disguise.

Smith. I cry you Mercy, Sir ; I suppose, from the Mention of your *Grand Febrifuge*, that you are the once celebrated *Water-Doctor*, whom I have heard Talk of in the World above.

Hancock,

Hancock. 'Twas I that taught the World the Virtues of Cold-water, Sir ; and, I am sorry to see a Person, of such high Rank and Dignity in the Church, condescend to such low Artifices, as to steal my Invention, dress it up a-new, and pass it off for his own. For his Lordship's Remedy is nothing more than my Specific, corrupted by the Addition of that nauseous Ingredient, *Tar*.—— Did you ever read *my Book*, Sir ?

Smith. I cannot say I ever did ; and you will not think it strange that I have not, when I tell you, that few People, now-a-Days know, that there is such a Thing extant in the World.——However, I am acquainted with the Purport of it, and may venture to affirm, that your *Febrifuge* cannot be brought in Competition with *Tar-Water*.

Hancock. There's the Misfortune on't :— I am confident, that, if People would but read *my Book*, they would not stand in such Admiration of his Lordship's——But, Sir, as you are a Stranger to it, I do not care, if I take a little Pains to convince you of the Truth of what I assert—And, *a Propos*, here comes a Physician, who shall be Judge, to which of the two the Preference is due, namely, the Bishop's Remedy, or mine.

Smith. Agreed.

B

Hancock,

Hancock. You're come very opportunely, Doctor—for this Gentleman, who is newly arrived here, and myself, were disputing upon a Subject which belongs to your Profession, and we agreed to refer the Matter to your Decision.

Garth. I am obliged to you, Gentlemen, for the Honour you intended me ; but I must beg to be excused, for I never loved Disputes, unless they were such as were likely to afford me some Diversion. Besides, Sir, I am now in Haste.

Hancock. We shall not detain you long, Doctor ; the Dispute between us will quickly be decided. To let you into the Nature of it, then, this Gentleman has been giving me an Account of a Remedy which has lately been much talked of above, and I have undertaken to convince him, that the Author has taken the Hint from me, and that my *Febrifuge* is still the better Remedy of the two.

Garth. You mean *Tar-water*, I suppose ; if that be the Subject of your Debate, I will stay to hear it out, though I make my Patients wait, for I have heard strange Reports of the Miracles which it has performed. A Ghost, who arrived here a few Days ago, assured me, that the Bills of Mortality were decreased, one Half at least, since the
Pub-

Publication of the Bishop's Book ; that *Tar-water* was drank by all Sorts of People ; that it was talked, when he came away, that the Ministry had some Thoughts of taking off the Duty upon spirituous Liquors, and laying it upon *Tar-water*, since it was apprehended, that the Drinking of the Latter would intirely put a Stop to the Consumption of the former Liquors.—Upon Hearing this, I made all the Enquiry I could, to get *the Book* ; and, after much Difficulty, I met with one, for, since the Publication of the new Edict, it is a hard Matter to get Sight of a new Book.

Smith. What, have you Books in Hell then, Sir ?

Garth. Yes, Sir : We used to have all the new Books sent us hither, weekly, from your World ; but, since the Writings of *Free-thinkers* have abounded so much, *Pluto* has published an Edict strictly forbidding the Importation of all Books from thence, being afraid, lest the Morals of his Subjects should be corrupted by them—But to go on with what I was saying,—His Infernal Majesty, upon Hearing so much of the Virtues of *Tar-water*, gave me Orders to prepare some, and to make Trial of it upon *Tantalus* ; for, as he has been so long without Tasting any Liquor, his Majesty judged that he would swallow it very greedily.—Accordingly, he was released from his Confinement,

ment, and entered upon a Course of *Tar-water*, with great Alacrity, fancying his Punishment was now at an End ; but, whether it does not agree so well with our subterranean Constitutions, as it does with yours above ; or whether it was not rightly prepared, I cannot tell ; but he had not been in this Course above three Days, before it made him so horribly sick, that he begged to be put into his Lake again ; declaring, that he had rather be parched with Thirst to all Eternity, than drink a Drop more of it.

Smith. I believe, Doctor, it will be no hard Matter to account for the Disorders which *Tar-water* occasions in your infernal Constitutions ; for *Tar*, especially that which is drawn from the Mountain Pine, is impregnated with so large a Quantity of a *luminous Spirit*, or the *solar Light*, that it is no Wonder that you, who love Darkness rather than Light, should have an Aversion to it.

Garth. Very likely, Sir, that may be the Case, and I thank you for the Hint—But I have heard that it agrees no better with some of your Earthly Constitutions, than it does with ours.—Do they likewise love Darkness rather than Light ? Or is there some other Reason for their Antipathy to it ? But I won't put you to the Trouble of answering these Questions at present.—I should now be glad to be informed, if you please, what Cures have been done by *Tar-water* in the
upper

upper World—For, though I have read the Book, such a studied Want of Perspicuity, and such a methodical Want of Method, seems to run through the Whole that, I confess, I am not much the wiser for it.

Smith. To remedy the Want of Method, which you complain of, Sir, I shall endeavour to collect together all that his Lordship has said of the Excellencies of *Tar-water*, and place them in one View—To begin with *acute Disorders*, it is an excellent Preservative or Preparative against the *Small Pox* *, *Erysipelas*, or *St. Anthony's Fire*, all *epidemical Disorders* in general, and against *all other Infection* whatever, as well as against all the *Passions* of the *Mind* †. It succeeds beyond Expectation in *Pleurisies*, *Peripneumonies*, and all Disorders of the *inflammatory Kind*, and may safely be trusted to alone, without Bleeding, or Blistering, or any other Medicine whatever ‡. It is an admirable Remedy in *Dysenteries*, and infallibly cures *Fevers of all Kinds*, and even *the Plague itself*, if drank in sufficient Quantity, and continued long enough ||, so that the Patient need not be at the Expence of any other Medicine.—I should trespass too much upon your Time, if I attempted to enumerate all its Virtues in *chronical Distempers*; I shall, therefore, only observe in general, that it is good in *Obstructions*, *Asth-*

* Sect. 2. † Sect. 85. ‡ Sect. 5. 78. || Sect.

mas, the *Gravel*, *Cachectic* and *Hysteric Cases* ; that it is of excellent Use against *Poisons*, *Bites of venomous Animals*, the *Palsy*, and *King's-Evil* ; that it surpasses every Thing in *Coughs*, *Consumptions*, and *Ulcers* of all Kinds, particularly of the *Lungs* ; which last are generally esteemed incurable *.—It infallibly takes off all *Spasms*, *Cramps*, *Convulsions*, and the like, being good for the *Nerves* in general †.—It is good in all the several Kinds of *Scurvy*, as well *acid* and *alkaline* as *muriatic*, and is the only Medicine that cures them all without doing any Hurt ‡.—It strengthens the Stomach, and cures *Indigestion* ; cures *Gangrenes* and the *Cholic*, and prevents the *Gout* ||.—To conclude, it cheers the *dreary Mind*, restores a *crazy Constitution*, and subverts the *gloomy Empire of the Spleen* **, creating a *calm satisfied Sense of Health* ††, and is the only Remedy ever yet found out (not excepting *Myrrh* itself) to prolong the Life of Man ‡‡, which it does by rendering it more *intense* as well as more *durable*, since it enables the Drinkers of it to live more *in one Hour*, than others do in two ||||.

Garth. You have been very eloquent, in Praise of his Lordship's Remedy, I confess ; but, if I remember right, the Bishop has attributed one Excellency to it, which you have

* Sect. 5. † Sect. 102. ‡ Sect. 97. || Sect. 80, 82. ** Sect. 106. †† Sect. 85. ‡‡ Sect. 49. ||| Sect. 109.

forgot, and that no mean one, in the Opinion of some People, *viz.* “ That it is an
 “ excellent Preservative of the Teeth and
 “ Gums.” However, if it has but Half the
 Virtues, which you attribute to it, one need
 not wonder at People’s Fondness for it—
 But, I pray, Sir, be so good as to favour us
 with an Account of its Manner of Operating,
 for that will enable us, perhaps, to account
 for its wonderful Effects.

Smith. That it will, I can assure you,
 Sir, for his Lordship’s Reasoning about the
 Principles it contains, and its Manner of Act-
 ing, will appear more wonderful, if possible,
 than the Effects of the Remedy have done—
 I’ll give it you in as few Words as possible—
 Its Manner of Operating, then, is very diffe-
 rent, in different Subjects, and even in the
 same Subject, according as he happens to be
 differently disposed. Its contrary Effects may
 seem chimerical to some *, but may be ea-
 sily reconciled from considering the Princi-
 ples it contains— It is compounded, then, of
 an extremely fine, *balsamic, vivifying, and*
illuminating Volatile Salt, or *Spirit* †, and an
essential animated Oil ‡, exalted and enriched
 by a large Portion of the *solar Light*; and
 hence those Pines produce the best *Tar*,
 which grow on mountainous Places, and are
 most exposed to the Action of the Sun—
 From the Principles it contains, it acts both

* Sect. 72.

† Sect. 7. 44. 47.

‡ Sect. 44.

as an *Acid*, and an *Oil*, a *Balsam*, and a *Soap*—It contains the Virtues of all the *Turpentine*s and *Balsams*; of *Assa fœtida*, *Galbanum*, *Myrrh*, and *Amber*; of *Balm of Gilead*, *Cappivi*, and *Peru*: It is possessed, moreover, of the Qualities of *Guaiacum*, and all the Woods; of *Opium*, *Mercury*, *Soap*, and *Salt*; of *Amber*; of *Elixir Proprietatis*, and *Stoughton's Drops* *; of *Wood-foot*, and the best *chalybeate* and *sulphureous Waters*—As it contains the specific Qualities of such a Variety of Medicines, it is easy to account for its different, and even contrary Effects—For, by its volatile, acid Spirit, it acts as an Alterative, a Diaphoretic, a Cordial, and a Diuretic. As an Acid, indeed, it coagulates, and may be supposed to be bad, in scrophulous, hysterical, and hypochondriacal Cases; but then, as a *Soap*, it resolves the coagulated Juices †, raiseth the Spirits, and is an excellent Anti-hysterical, no less innocent than potent ‡. It is certain, that *Tar-water* warms ||; but then it is as certain, that it cools; and thus it does great Good in a cold, watery Constitution, and allays feverish Heat and Thirst in another **. When it acts as *Guaiacum*, or *Turpentine*, it heats and disposes to inflammatory Tumours: But then, again, as an Acid, it is cooling, and resists Inflammations ††. It is good against too great Fluidity and Acrimony of Humours, as a *Balsamic*; and against Viscidity, as a *Soap* ‡‡. By its Warmth

* Sect. 53. † Sect. 98. ‡ Sect. 99. || Sect. 74.
 ** Sect. 72. †† Sect. 7. 61. ‡‡ Sect. 60, 96.

and Activity, it quickens the sluggish Blood of the Hysterical ; and, by its balsamic, oily Nature, it abates the too rapid Motion of the sharp, thin Blood in those who are hectic *; by quickening the Motion of the Fluids, it strengthens and braces up the weak, lax Fibres ; on the other Hand, as a bland, unctuous, watery Fluid, it moistens and relaxes the too dry and stiff Fibres, and so proves a Remedy for both Extremes † : It attenuates like common Water but then it does not distend and relax the Vessels, as Water does ‡. I might say more of its admirable Qualities, but, for Fear of being tedious, I shall only add, that this safe and cheap Medicine, this Water of Health, as it may be justly called, emulates the Virtues of that famous Plant *Ginseng*, as it raises the Spirits, without depressing them, and is, perhaps, the only Medicine in the World that suits all Ages, and all Circumstances, all Seasons, and all Constitutions ||.

Garth. Your Account of the various Operations of *Tar-water* puts me very much in Mind of a Scene, which I have formerly read in one of *Moliere's* Comedies. A Miser is there represented as keeping but one Servant, who is obliged to act in the different Capacities of Coachman, Cook, and Butler : This occasions great Confusion, for, when his Master calls, he is at a Loss to

* Sect. 52.

† Sect. 57.

‡ Ibid.

|| Sect. 67.

know what Character he is to appear in, whether as Coachman or as Cook. I cannot help thinking that your Remedy, like the Miser's Servant, must be in great Perplexity for Want of knowing what Part it is to act ; for Example, whether it is to heat or cool, to act as a Balsam or a Soap.—This Difficulty, I think, can hardly be got over upon your Author's Hypothesis, that a Medicine may have contrary Qualities ; but, for my own Part, I am too dull to apprehend, how a Remedy, which is heating, can at the same Time be cooling likewise.

Smith. Nothing so easy to conceive ; for,
 “ Why may not a Medicine cool in one
 “ Part, and warm in another, be a Remedy to either Extreme *.”

Garth. Suppose a Person should endeavour to convince you, that *Punch* was an admirable Remedy in Fevers ; What would you think of him ?

Smith. I should think either that he was imposed upon himself, or else had a Mind to impose upon my Credulity.

Garth. And yet, Sir, you have been endeavouring to do the like by me.

* Sect. 97.

Smith. I am not conscious of any such Intention ; pray how does it appear ?

Garth. You have been recommending *Tar-water* as a Remedy in Fevers ; and when I objected, that it was heating, you replied, that, as it was heating in one Part, and cooling in another, it might be a Remedy in either Extreme. And may not this Reasoning with equal Justice be applied to *Punch* ? As, for Example, *Punch* is heating in one Part, and cooling in another ; as it is made of Rum it heats, but as it contains a Quantity of Water and of Orange-juice it cools ; it may, therefore, be a Remedy in either Extreme, and by Consequence an admirable Remedy in Fevers.

Smith. I do not pretend to understand Logic, for my Part ; but I look upon *Tar-water* to be good in Fevers, because the Bishop of *Cloyne* has said so.—And this has more Weight with me, than all your Arguments put together.

Garth. I expected that it would, Sir, and on that Account shall not perplex you with any more of them. But now, Doctor, if you please let us hear what you have to say in Defence of your *Febrifuge* ; for, tho' I have formerly read your Book, the greatest Part of it has long since escaped my Memory.—There is one Thing, indeed, which

made so strong an Impression on my Mind, that I shall not easily forget it ; and that is, your Method of curing the Cholic ; where, I think, you advise the Patient to swallow a Quart of cold Water, and then to stand upon his Head.

Hancock. I know that People made themselves merry with my Prescriptions, as well as my Reasons for them, when they first appeared ; and yet my Reasoning, about *cold Water*, may perhaps be found to be full as good, as his Lordship's Reasoning concerning *Tar-water*. And it is plain his Lordship thought it of some Weight, or otherwise he would not have copied it as he has done. This I shall presently make appear ; but first I shall shew that greater Cures have been performed by my Specific than any that Mr. *Smith* has or can produce.— And here I must observe, that the Distempers, in which *Tar-water* has been recommended by Mr. *Smith*, and of which he has given us a very ample Catalogue, are of two Kinds, *First*, Such as his Lordship *affirms*, upon his own Experience, *to have been cured* ; and, *Secondly*, Such as *he suspects* or *verily believes* may be cured by drinking it. For the Sake of Method, therefore, I shall divide his Lordship's Cures into Real and Imaginary : To begin with the real Cures ; we have his Lordship's Word for it, “ That he
“ has rendered the Small Pox favourable,
“ cured Ulcers and cutaneous Eruptions by
“ *Tar-*

“ *Tar-water*, and has found it more suc-
 “ cessful in the foul Distemper than Sali-
 “ vation, or the Wood-drinks ; that it suc-
 “ ceeded beyond his Hopes in a Consump-
 “ tive Cough, and Ulcer of the Lungs,
 “ (as plainly appeared by expectorated *Pus*)
 “ and likewise in a Pleurisy and Peripneu-
 “ mony.”—— In another Place he assures
 us, “ That he never knew any Thing so
 “ good for the Stomach as *Tar-water*.”——
 After these Testimonies in Favour of *Tar-*
water, in the Entrance of his Book, we hear
 no more of Facts or real Cures, till *Señt.* 77.
 where he tells us, “ That Twenty-five Fevers
 “ were cured in his own Family by this Me-
 “ dicinal Water, drank copiously,”——though
 he owns that some of those Patients had
 been vomited at first ; besides the Cures al-
 ready mentioned his Lordship affirms, “ He
 “ has known some pleuritic Persons cured
 “ by drinking *Tar-water*, and applying a
 “ Blister to the Stitch ;” that he cured a
 Gangrene by it, and the Bloody Flux ; tho’
 he owns very candidly that he has a better
 Remedy for the Flux than even *Tar-water* it-
 self.—*Lastly*, he tells us, that he has found
 Benefit by it in the Cholic.—These are all the
 Instances of real Cures which I can collect
 from his Lordship’s Book ; and to these I
 shall oppose some Cures performed by my
Febrifuge.——If his Lordship then has found
Tar-water successful in common epidemic
 Fevers, I have cured the malignant ones by
cold Water only ; if he has known it service-
 able

able in the Small Pox, I have had Experience of the Efficacy of *cold Water*, not in the Small Pox only, but in eruptive Fevers of all Kinds ; of which I could recite many Instances, but, for the Sake of Brevity, I shall refer you to *my Book*.—As to Pleurifies and Peripneumonies, his Lordship does not affirm that he ever cured one by *Tar-water*, but only suspects it may be done. I shall refer these, therefore, to the Class of imaginary Cures.—But the most wonderful Effects, which his Lordship mentions to have been wrought by *Tar-water*, are in Consumptions, Coughs, and Ulcerations of the Lungs.—Now, if *cold Water* surpasses his Lordship's Remedy in such important and difficult Cases, we may fairly conclude, it does so likewise in others of less Difficulty.—And, a Proof that it does, I need only refer you to *my Book*, where you will see that I myself was cured not only of a Cough, a Spitting of Blood, and an Ulcer of the Lungs, but of a Jaundice too into the Bargain, by drinking *cold Water* for four Days together.—

As to the Virtues of *Tar-water* in strengthening the Stomach, curing Cholics, and the like, it seems as if his Lordship has borrowed what he has said upon these Articles from *my Book* ; in which I have given a full Detail of the admirable Effects of *cold Water* on the Stomach, in curing vomiting Hiccoughs, the Heart-burn, &c. and I may say, without Vanity, that it has this superior Excellency, that it stands in Need neither of
Oil

Oil of Nutmegs, nor Canary, to correct it ; nor does it give any Offence even to the nicest Stomach.—And, as to the Cholic, I can prove from his Lordship's own Concession, that my *Specific* surpasses his ; for, though his Lordship has found great Benefit by *Tar-water* in a Cholic, yet he allows he has not met with a perfect Cure ; but I have shewn that *cold Water* is an infallible Remedy in Cholics, if you use it rightly, and *I myself was as frequently troubled with Fits of the Cholic, as most People were, before I knew the Use of Water ; but, after the Time that I began to drink it, I do not remember that I had ever one Touch of it, whilst I staid above.*—The Waters, indeed, of this Lower World do not agree so well with my Constitution, which I impute to the bituminous or pitchy Particles that they contain.—I might go through the few remaining Cures, which are recorded in his Lordship's Book to have been wrought by *Tar-water*, but I have said enough, I believe, to convince an unprejudiced Person, that greater Cures have been effected by mine than by his Lordship's Remedy.

Garth. You have reduced his Lordship's real Cures to a very inconsiderable Number, Doctor.

Hancock. Yes, Sir, and, if proper Allowance was made for “ *Effects misimputed, Cases wrong told, Circumstances over-* ”
“ *looked,*

“ looked, and, perhaps, too, Prejudices and
 “ Partialities in Favour of his Remedy,”
 the Catalogue, I dare affirm, would still be
 less.—A Physician might put some Queries
 to his Lordship about these Cures, which it
 would not be easy for him to answer. As,
 for Instance, What Certainty he had that
 he had cured an Ulcer of the Lungs by his
 Remedy? How he could prove that the
 Cure of the twenty-five Fevers was owing
 to *Tar-water*, though several of the Patients
 had been vomited in the Beginning? How
 he came to know that in pleuritic Cases,
 in which Blisters were applied to the Stitch,
 the Cure was effected by *Tar-water*; and
 that the Blisters had no Hand in it? A Phy-
 sician, I say, might ask these Questions,
 since he knows that a viscid Phlegm, which
 oftentimes is the Consequence of taking Cold,
 may be easily mistaken by the Unskilful for
 expectorated *Pus*;—that epidemic Fevers
 are often cured by Vomiting alone, and some-
 times go off without the Assistance of any
 Medicines; and that a pleuritic Pain has
 often been removed by only applying a
 Blister to the Part affected.

Garth. Your Remarks are very judicious,
 I confess; but I would have you take Care,
 lest, in refuting the Bishop's Book, you should
 happen likewise to refute your own.

Hancock. I am not afraid of that: But
 I proceed now to his Lordship's *imaginary*
Cures,

Cures, or what he believes of the Virtues of *Tar-water*. Far be it from me to accuse his Lordship of Credulity, but I hope I may be allowed to put my Faith in *cold Water* in the Scale against his Lordship's Faith in *Tar-water*, and that one may pass for as good an Argument as the other.—His Lordship believes then, “ That *Tar-water* will prevent “ the Small Pox, or render it favourable ;” and I believe, that “ the Life of the Game “ in the Small Pox, and in all other erup- “ tive Fevers, is to quell the Fever at the “ very first ; which, if it can be done, I “ I dare almost engage the Eruptions will be “ kindly, and without any dangerous Symp- “ toms attending them. And I boldly assert “ that nothing will so effectually do this “ as plentiful Doses of *cold Water* *.” His Lordship believes, “ That *Tar-water* is “ excellent, and even better than Balsam “ of *Peru* in Asthma's, the Gravel, Nephritic Pains, Cholics, and Obstructions ;”—and have I not said in my Book, that I believe the same Things of *cold Water* ? His Lordship suspects, “ That a pleuritic “ Patient, betaking himself to Bed betimes, “ and drinking very copiously of *Tar-water*, “ may be cured by that alone, without “ Bleeding, Blistering, or any other Medicine whatsoever ;”—and, on the other Hand, I verily believe, “ A plentiful Dose

* *Febrifug. Magnum*, p. 36.

“ of *cold Water*, given in Bed, in a Pleu-
 “ risy, Peripneumony, Quinsy, and Erysi-
 “ pelas, would, in a great Measure, prevent
 “ the Distempers themselves, and reduce
 “ them to the Nature of common Fevers *.”

Nay, more, I have declared it as my Opinion,
 that these Kinds of Diseases may be cured
 by *cold Water* alone, without Evacuations
 of any Kind.——His Lordship verily be-
 lieves *Tar-water* to be “ the best and safest
 “ Medicine to prevent the Gout, or to drive
 “ it from the Vitals.” — This is apparent-
 ly borrowed from my Book ; for I have
 said the self-same Thing of *cold Water*, and
 almost in the self-same Words. — I am
 unwilling to tire out your Patience, by
 producing more Quotations, to shew the
 Similitude there is between his Lordship’s
 Way of Writing and my own ; but shall
 just give a Specimen or two of his Rea-
 soning about the Operation of his Remedy,
 which (where it deserves the Name of Rea-
 soning) is plainly copied from mine.

I have said of *cold Water*, “ That it is
 “ the most innocent and most powerful
 “ Aperient, unless we may except *Mercury*,
 “ but infinitely safer than that.” — His
 Lordship has taken this, and applied it to
Tar-water.

Again, in speaking of the Plague, I ob-
 served, “ That, as the Plague is only a
 “ higher Degree of a malignant Fever, *cold*

* *Febrifug. Magnum*, p. 52.

“ *Water* will probably take it off, as it does
 “ other malignant Fevers.” — This his
 Lordship has copied after me; only, instead
 of malignant Fevers, he has put in the
 Word *Erysipelas*, and by that Means rendered the Reasoning of less Force.— *Lastly*,
 In speaking of the good Effects of *cold Water*
 in an Asthma, I have shewn in what a Variety of Cases it may be serviceable, as it
 thins a viscid or sily Blood; thickens the
 Humours when they are too thin and sharp;
 relaxes and moistens the too dry and rigid
 Fibres; and restores the lax and weak ones
 to their proper Tone. All this his Lordship
 has borrowed from my Book, and applied
 it almost Word for Word, to account
 for the Operation of *Tar-water*.—To sum
 up all that I have been saying, in few
 Words: His Lordship’s Reasoning as well as
 his Remedy seem to be borrowed from my
 Book, and he has left both in a worse
 Condition than he found them. As for the
 Reasoning, you are Witnesses how ill he
 has applied it; and, as for the Remedy, I
 dare affirm, that, if there be any Virtue
 in it, it is owing wholly to the Water, and
 that the *Tar* is, at best, but an useless Ingredient.—

Garth. I thank you, Doctor, for your
 excellent Discourse.—You have maintained
 your Point like an able Disputant, and

the Merits of yours and his Lordship's Remedy seem, upon the Whole, to be so equal, that I cannot determine to which the Preference is due. — One Thing, however, I may venture to affirm, namely, that his Lordship must certainly have been very much at a Loss for Arguments, to support his Opinion, when he adopted such as those you have been mentioning. — But, if the Virtues of the Bishop's Medicine be owing wholly to the Water, what becomes of the Balsam, the volatile Salt, the luminous Spirit, &c. which Mr. *Smith* told us it contained? — Are they not really contained in it? Or do they subsist in it undiscovered?

Hancock. To give you my Opinion of it freely, I am satisfied, that all that it contains (mere Water alone excepted) is only a little acid Phlegm, some of its volatile acid Salt, and a sufficient Quantity of Wood-foot, to render the Water nauseous. — I am no Chymist myself, but, one whom I applied to, told me, that, although he had been hard at Work upon *Tar-water* for some Time, to extract the *luminous Spirit* from it, yet he had not been able to procure a single Grain of Light from a whole Hog-head of it. He convinced me likewise, that what the Author says, about its balsamic Qualities, is merely imaginary. —

Garth.

Garth. If you can prove that it has no balsamic Qualities, I think the Victory will be yours, since the Author founds his Expectation on it, chiefly as a Balsam.

Hancock. It will be no hard Matter to do that— For, if I apprehend the Matter rightly, the Word, *Balsamic*, is only applicable to Medicines, which act upon the Body as a Balsam.—Now all Balsams, of which Number *Tar* is one, are compounded of Water, an acid, saline Spirit, and an Oil, which, when it is inspissated, becomes a Resin— These Parts, or Principles of a Balsam, are separable from one another by Art ; but, when the Balsam is deprived of any one of them, it is then no longer to be considered as a Balsam, but becomes another Thing. The Principles, or constituent Parts of a Balsam, differ from each other in their Qualities and Effects, as well as from the Balsam itself, of which they are the Parts : Thus the Spirit and Oil of Turpentine are very different from each other, as well as they are from Turpentine itself— But *the principal Virtues of all Balsams are owing to their Oils.* According to this Account of Balsams, the acid Spirits, or Salts of *Tar*, must be very different from *Tar* itself : If this be true, and it be true likewise, that Water can only take up its acid Salt, and not touch its
principal

principal Parts, namely, its Oil or Resin (which his Lordship himself allows *) How can *Tar-water* be said, with any Propriety, to be balsamic? And, if it be not balsamic, how does it sheathe scorbutic Salts? In my Opinion, it is much more likely to produce scorbutic Salts, than sheathe them. If I may presume to say so, therefore, his Lordship has been guilty of a Paralogism, in this Point, for it does not follow, that, because *Tar* is a Balsam, *Tar-water* must be a Balsam too.—

Garth. You surprise me greatly, Doctor ; for, who could have thought a Person of his Lordship's Learning and Abilities, one that soars so high in Spirituals, and who can demonstrate the Doctrine of the Trinity, by a necessary Chain of Reasoning, from the Virtue of *Tar-water*, could have been caught tripping in such a material Point as this ?

Hancock. You would be more surprised, if I was to collect together all the groundless Assertions, and false Reasonings, which are to be met with in the Book—For Instance—Does he not tell us in one Place, “ That *Tar-water* is an Aperient, like common Water, “ but then it does not distend the Vessels so

* Sect. 7.

“ much

“ much as mere Water does ? ” What is this, but Asserting, in other Words, that a Quart of *Tar-water* does not take up so much Room in the Body, as a Quart of Spring-water does ? I should have been laughed at deservedly, if I had said any Thing like this.— Again ; his Lordship asserts, That *Tar-water* is an Acid ; yet, in another Place, he tells us, that it has the Virtues of an *Alkali*, or an alkaline Soap, though not its ill Effects. — Are not these Assertions contradictory ? I might produce more Instances of this Kind ; but, as it is an invidious Task, I shall decline it.—His Lordship has, however, been guilty of an Oversight, which is so glaring, that I cannot pass it by — He affirms, “ That the specific Virtues of *Tar-water* are contained in its acid Spirit, “ which is, in Truth, a volatile Salt *.” If so, *Tar-water* can neither act as a Balsam, nor a Soap, nor a Chalybeate, nor an Opiate, nor yet as a Mercurial, but like what it really is, an acid Salt dissolved in a large Quantity of Water :—All, therefore, which has been said, about its having the Virtues of the above-mentioned Medicines, must be merely imaginary.—But farther, if the specific Qualities of *Tar-water* reside in its acid Salt, it follows from his Lordship’s own Concession, that it cannot act at all, except upon

the Stomach and Intestines, where we have sufficient Evidence of its Acting, by the Sickneſs it creates. The Conceſſion, I mean, is this :— His Lordſhip allows, that Acids muſt be quite ſubdued and changed, before they can be received into the animal Fluids, or that they muſt be aſſimilated into the Nature of thoſe Fluids. But this intirely overturns at once the Houſe of Cards, which his Lordſhip has raiſed with ſo much Art and Care : For, when Medicines are ſo far changed, as to become a conſtituent Part of the Fluids, into which they are received, it is plain they can no longer act as Medicines :— But, if this be true of the ſtronger and more powerful Acids, it muſt hold good in the weaker ones, ſuch as *Tar-water*, which (to uſe his Lordſhip's own Words) is ſo gentle, bland, and temperate an Acid, as to be aſſimilated with the utmoſt Eaſe *. How can the Advocates for *Tar-water* pretend to ſay, after this, “ *That it is an Al-*
“ *terative which penetrates the whole System,*
“ *opens, heals, and ſtrengthens the remote*
“ *Veſſels, alters and propels their Contents,*
“ *and enters the minuteſt Capillaries † ?*”

Garth. Your Remark is juſt; but I cannot agree with you, that his Lordſhip has been guilty of an Overſight in dropping this Conceſſion.—

* Sect. 48.

† Sect. 110.

Hancock. How ! Not an Oversight, say you ?

Garth. No, Sir ; I look upon it, for my Part, to be a deep-laid Design.

Hancock. Why, this is more amazing than any Thing in the Bishop's Book.— I should be glad to know what Reason you have for Thinking in this Manner.

Garth. Can you, or any one else, imagine, that a Person of the Bishop of *Cloyne's* Sagacity could be guilty of such a horrible Blunder (if I may call it so) if he really intended that People should give any Credit to what he had been saying about the Virtues of *Tar-water* ?

Hancock. 'Tis hard to conceive, I own ; but what is your Opinion ?

Garth. My Opinion is, that the Bishop artfully dropped this Concession, just as he was going to take his Leave of *Tar-water*, only to insinuate the real Design of his Book, which, as he openly professes afterwards, was to surprise People into certain Reflexions, for which they have no Curiosity. 'Tis past a Doubt to me, that the Bishop's Book was

writ with no other View, but to make Converts to his Philosophy ; and that *Tar-water* was intended only for a Bait to draw worldly-minded People in to read it ; or, as one may say, a Ladder, by which you may mount up to the Trinity.— This Hypothesis, at once, lets us into his Lordship's real Design, and clears him from the Imputation of Quackery ; for the Book is not, in Reality, a Treatise of *Physic*, but of *Metaphysics*.

Hancock. Your Conjecture is ingenious ; but I cannot allow it to be any Thing more than a Conjecture.

Garth. I am persuaded it is something more. But I have another Reason to be of this Opinion, which you may, perhaps, object to, but which I think a weighty one.

Hancock. May I ask what your Reason is, Doctor ?

Garth. You will grant me, I believe, that the Author of *Siris* is a Person of quick Discernment and Judgment.

Hancock. It is no Compliment to him to allow it.

Garth.

Garth. And likewise that he is tolerably well versed in the Nature of Diseases and of Remedies.

Hancock. I allow it.

Garth. Very well, Sir ; I affirm then, that it is utterly impossible for a Person of any Judgment or Discernment, who is the least acquainted with the Nature of Diseases, to entertain a Belief of an Universal Remedy,—such as *Tar-water* is supposed to be.—But I beg Pardon, for I think yours was something of this Kind.

Hancock. My Remedy, Sir, might have been of general Use, had People been wise enough to make Trial of it ; but I never pretended to say it was an Universal one.—However, I see no Absurdity in supposing there may be such a Thing.

Garth. Give me Leave to ask you, Sir, whether you think the Knowledge of Diseases necessary to their Cure, or not ?

Hancock. First, let me understand what you mean by the Knowledge of Diseases ? For, I think, you Physicians differ in this Point :—Do you mean a Knowledge of

the Causes of Diseases, or only of their Signs and Symptoms ?

Garth. I mean a Knowledge of their Signs, or such a Knowledge as enables a Physician, upon the Appearance of any Disease, to distinguish it from all others.

Hancock. I allow such a Knowledge to be necessary.

Garth. You will allow, likewise, that a Thing cannot be necessary and unnecessary, useful and of no Use, at one and the same Time.

Hancock. Certainly.

Garth. You must then give up all Pretences to an Universal Medicine ; for, upon the Supposition of such a Medicine, the Knowledge of Diseases becomes intirely useless and unnecessary, and the Art of Physic is at an End.

Hancock. Be so good as to explain your Meaning ; for I do not see the Force of your Reasoning.

Garth. I think it is very plain ; for, if a Remedy be good in all Distempers, all Ages, and all Constitutions, like *Tar-water*, it must,
of

of Consequence, be unnecessary to distinguish one Distemper from another, since it may be given in all indifferently. For, let the Disease be what it will, the Remedy, like *Gargantua's Pills*, knows what it has to do. For, in cold Constitutions, it will heat, in hot ones it will cool, in dry ones it will relax and moisten, and in moist ones it will dry and strengthen.

Hancock. There seems to be some Truth in what you say; — but suppose I should retract, and say, that the Knowledge of Diseases is not necessary towards their Cure.

Garth. It would be easy to reply; for, if it be not necessary to distinguish between one Distemper and another, then it will be good Practice to treat them all alike; consequently, the very same Method and Medicines will be proper in a Pleurisy and Dropsy, the Gout and Green-sickness, a Cholic and Consumption; the Absurdity of which is too glaring to be longer insisted on.

Hancock. Well, Sir, you may reason as long and as learnedly as you please, upon the Folly of trusting to Universal Medicines and the Retailers of them; but depend upon it, that we *Empirics* shall still have the Multitude on our Side.

Garth.

Garth. I grant it, Sir ; and for this plain Reason, because it is much easier for a Man to surrender himself up to the Guidance of any Pretender to Medicine, than to be at the Pains of examining his Pretensions by the Light of his own Sense and Understanding.

F I N I S.

